

M.E.S.

1939 - 1994



Kananaskis September 13 - 15, 1994 55th Reunion of The Margaret Eaton School Class of '39

A beautiful setting in our Canadian Rockies, Alberta.

A total of 14 grads, 6 husbands, and one daughter attended.

Those who came were:

Adrienne Adams Lea and daughter Pat, Gwen Baalim Murray and Lloyd, Joan Brown Hillary, Sylvia Collier-Wright Teal, Ruth Corner, Dorothy Forsyth Sangster, Dorothy Frappier Munsie, Phoebe Hamilton, Carol Hendry Duffus and Allan, Joyce Jarvis Matthews and Dick, Anne Lyster Toole and Ned, Winn McLennan Johnston, Patty Sterne Sanders and Frank, Julia Wright Fairley and Jim.

We are indebted to Joyce and Dick for their suggestion 5 years ago that we have our next reunion at Kananaskis.

Without exception every "impression" has been full of praise for Anne and Ned for organizing a most successful reunion¹.

We thank you for arranging pre-dinner and post-dinner hospitality in your suite, the afternoon drive in Kananaskis country, and the final banquet.

Banquet: Dorothy Forsyth was our charming M.C. Toast to the Grads was given by Ned and replied to by Brownie. Patty gave a meaningful toast in memory of the Grads now deceased: Marjorie Fraser, Dorothy Cameron, Shirley Muddiman, Jess Loaring, Frances Christie.

Grads rose in turn to recount the most memorable moment or the most embarrassing moment at M.E.S. These memories were hilarious.

The highlight of the banquet was when Winn thanked Anne and Ned on our behalf for all their efforts and presented them with a figurine of the Discobolus or Greek discus-thrower (our school crest). Winn acquired this gem in Rome while on holidays.

The evening ended in the Toole's suite with school and camp songs, on tape by Carol Duffus. The whole evening a great finale to the Reunion.

¹ ED. Note: Omitted in many for space considerations.

IMPRESSIONS

Adrienne Adams Lea

The mountains were remarkable. Around every corner there was another spectacular view. It was wonderful to see all my old friends again after so many years and especially have so many come to my room for a while one afternoon. I particularly want to thank Anne and Ned for arranging and planning the reunion. It was wonderful.

Gwen Baalim Murray

Sorry - no word from Gwen. Active participants on every occasion, Gwen and Lloyd were there - at 5 o'clocks, dinners and dancing, taking pictures.

Joan Brown Hillary

I enjoyed it immensely - mostly just seeing people again and having a good visit. I think Anne and Ned did a fabulous job. It was not their fault that the banquet was not as they had planned. To me it is not that important anyway.

(Am I being a heretic?) I still maintain that a smaller Inn is preferable. Also there should always be a piano available - for Winn to whip up the old school spirit - in some sort of sitting room reserved for our use.

Sylvia Collier-Wright Teal

I thought it was great. First, Anne and Ned were so hospitable and concerned for everyone's welfare. True, some of us did have to turn our heads a little more to the right or left to tune in on the conversation - and it took a little longer to sit down or stand up that it did 5 years ago - let alone 55 years ago!! But those aspects were not important. The important aspects were being able to renew old friendships so easily and comfortably and enjoying ourselves!

Ruth Corner

I liked the walks with magnificent mountain scenery and the pleasant weather; I liked having a choice of restaurants for meals; I liked being with so many friends - and I, too, thank Winn for her inspired choice of a gift for Anne and Ned.

Dorothy Forsyth Sangster

Did you know 6 girls were wearing their M.E.S. rings? Adrienne was wearing her gold medal on a chain; Winn was unable to wear her silver medal as it was stolen.

While all grads are now over 70 years, it is unbelievable all are in such good health - and good spirits. All most willing to travel the distance - in order to be part of the reunion.

Excellent walks with beautiful mountain views. Time available to chat with all. A big thank you to Winn for purchasing a memorable gift. A most successful reunion.

Dorothy Frappier Munsie

Kananaskis was a beautiful ideal setting. Meeting at 5 p.m. for a happy hour made for togetherness and a visit with everyone. It was wonderful still having some husbands attend - they give the reunion that extra touch! I feel the highlight of the reunion, however was the courage and determination displayed by Adrienne Lea and her adorable daughter Pat, by attending. This epitomized the spirit of the Margaret Eaton "Class of '39".

Phoebe Hamilton

All those excellent speeches at the banquet summed up perfectly my feelings for M.E.S. - past and present. I had no idea we had such accomplished speakers among us.

Kananaskis was a wonderful spot in every way. The beautiful scenery of the perimeter walk and particularly of the drive down the valley was thrilling. Joan and I heard what we thought were coyotes howling at the moon late one night - the picture seemed complete.

What continues to amaze me is how naturally we pick up the conversations of years ago and simply continue them.

A big thank-you must go to our energetic organizers, and to "our" spouses, now such an essential part of each reunion and such an addition.

Carol Hendry Duffus

The venue was wonderful - a great place for such an event - and wasn't the weather superb? It was great to see everybody again, especially Adrienne and her daughter Pat. What a great daughter! Allan especially like the lovely trails - the sheer beauty of the mountains - their changing moods with sun and cloud.

On Wednesday we drove the valley with Joyce and Dick and Phoebe. We never did catch up with the others - some don't listen to instructions and don't read signs! We did see the two lakes - made by the dams in the river - and saw the ski hills - and were lucky to encounter several mountain sheep. Dick couldn't get 2 to move off the road, so he inched the car up to them and finally bumped one to get it to move (very gently, mind!) and it did with such a look of disdain! It was funny!

Our only complaint: our last night in the dining room wasn't what we planned or wanted - so we couldn't sing - have Winn play - or talk as freely as we might have.

Joyce Jarvis Matthews

A great reunion. It really is a beautiful location and offers so much in the way of activities... I felt as if I had had time to visit and renew acquaintances as never before - possible because we were under one roof.

I felt sorry the restaurant facilities weren't better but that was out of our control. It was great to see so many of us (almost) hale and hearty and still able to enjoy life. (How fortunate we are). It amazes me that after 55 years we can all go back and pick up where we left off, remembering funny and traumatic incidents.

We were quite a group and our longevity of association proves true friendship and a desire to maintain it.

Anne Lyster Toole

The reunion was fun - I must admit that I was happy it went as well as it did, that we had a good turn-out and that the weather was cooperative. Regret that we didn't have a BBQ, a banquet room and a group picture.

Making everyone responsible for her(his) own transportation and reservations made the planning easier - but harder to get a commitment from the hotel.

At the dinner Wednesday night it was voted the next reunion will be in 3 years time in the Winnipeg area. Dorothy Forsyth was delegated to research possibilities - Winnipeg, Minaki, Kenora and have Easterner help to organize the event. Phoebe suggested that those who wanted the Round Robin letter to send names to Joan Hillary².

Thanks to everyone for cooperation on the "memories of M.E.S." at the Banquet. Some funny recollections came to light; Joyce's broken toe, Forsyth's chicken pox, Carol's sore ear(s), Corner struggling for the bronze life-saving medal, and many more.

It was kind of you to give me the Discobolus - most unexpected. It wouldn't be fair for me to take all the credit for a successful 55th since you were all involved. Special thanks to my dear spouse, Ned, who was also planner, driver, barman and speechmaker.

Looking forward to seeing you all in 1997 or before.

Winn McLennan Johnston

My main impression was what a good job Anne and Ned had done to organize everything. And of course it was great to see everyone who came - fourteen of us plus six husbands and Adrienne's lovely daughter. I hope we can have more at our next reunion in '97.

We really missed Marsh and McConnell who have been at most reunions, I think, and of course we'd all love to see Shiga and Rhoda and Jean and Elinor and Dorothy B. and Kay Reed. We've never had Laidlaw or Davison - wouldn't it be great if they could come next time!

Seeing everyone was well worth the long drive. I hope Joan will be ready to drive again in '97. We've done it twice from Ontario to B.C., so surely we can make Manitoba.

² Joan would like to hear as soon as possible.

Thought I'd just answer the questionnaire in Anne's letter and sent it on. It's really too soon to make many plans for three years hence.

Next time perhaps we should ask for volunteers, each to write a letter to one of the gals who couldn't attend.

Patty Sterne Sanders

The location was ideal with rugged mountain peaks, several scenic paths for walking - not too steep! golf courses, 3 hotels for meeting and eating.

The 5 p.m. get-togethers were happy occasions. Lots of laughter. I understand Anne and Ned had some Westerner help with refreshments and organizing the banquet - but basically they were the key to the fantastic success of the three wonderful days.

The only disappointment was how much we missed those who couldn't come. I am enclosing a letter from Shiga which arrived after my return - so we were not able to send her a fax from Kananaskis. I hope someone will send her a group picture as my film did not turn out well.

Frank joins me in these sentiments and we hope to meet at the next affair.

Appended is a synopsis of my remarks at the banquet in memory of the deceased:

Marjorie Fraser Armitage	She got things done. No fuss, no muss - well organized.
Dorothy Cameron:	A kind, thoughtful person, always mindful of others.
Shirley Muddiman:	Full of laughter and fun, but with a serious side too.
Jess Loaring Eastwood:	Truly the most outstanding athlete of our class. She would have been the most enthusiastic grad here.
Fran Christie Bedford:	She called a spade a spade. Very straightforward.

Julia Wright Fairley

We both enjoyed ourselves very much, and I hope we will be able to have another in a few years. I do think having a room where we can all gather (e.g. Anne and Ned's suite) makes it so much more friendly. It was unfortunate we were not able to have our own room for the banquet, but I think that misfortune was overcome very nicely.

Winn certainly chose a marvellous gift for Anne.

Regrets were received from those unable to attend:

Dorothy Barber Lupton
Margaret Davison Lathrop
Dorothy Laidlaw Corlett
Kae Marsh McFadzen
Frances McConnell Ziegler
Kay Reed Swenson
Jean Sutton Hill
Elinor Walker Chadwick
Rhoda Wood Taylor

Thanks for your letters. I hope these "edited impressions" will be satisfactory.

With fond memories of Kananaskis, looking forward to 1997, and warmest wishes for the New Year.

"Corner"

NOTE: My area code (905) 727-4798

If you would like to share the cost of postage, paper, etc., may I suggest \$3.00?

September 3, 1994

Dear Patty and Ann,

Thank you for your letters I received months ago. Please forgive me for not writing you much sooner than this.

It has been very hot this summer in Tokyo. The temperature has gone up to 33°C almost every day, some times up to 39.1°C. High temperature has brought about difficulties in our daily life, like shortage of water.

How are you? And how are your cities?

We are in September at last. Reunion will be in 2 weeks. I suppose you are very busy preparing for parties and outdoor programs. I'm writing this to give you my Fax No. as Patty advised me in her letter.

I've much more accustomed to having an aneurysm by now. At first, doctors threatened me saying I might die in an instant, at any time. They gave me many "don'ts". Now I'm living very well with this neurysm. No panting, no throbing, no aching now. So, don't worry about me. I'm doing very well with lots of sleep, rest and a bit of exercise. I've started going out for short meetings also. Well done, Shiga!

Looking forward to hearing from you, and

HAPPY REUNION for '39ers!!

Yours with love,

石村 滋子

Shigeko Hasegawa Ishimura

P.S. If you take a photograph of you all, please send me one, will You?

My Fax No. is 81-0424063-3842. 81 is a country number-- or Japan's number. Please tell me Canada's number, too. I've tried to fax this letter, but it wasn't received as I don't know Canada's number. So, tell me some times when it's convenient for you. Thank you.

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